

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT:MTN EC POSITION ON DRAFT STANDARDS CODE

REF: MTN GENEVA 4735

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, EC COMMISSION CONTENDS GATT
STANDARDS CODE COULD NOT BE SELF BALANCING SINCE EC WOULD
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STANDARDS ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER
COUNTRIES WHILE U.S. WOULD BE OBLIGED TO USE ONLY QTE BEST
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EFFORTS UNQTE WITH REGARD TO STATES AND PRIVATE STANDARDS
MAKING BODIES. WE BELIEVE BALANCED CODE COULD BE ACHIEVED
AND THAT EC WOULD NOT ASSUME GREATER LEVEL OF OBLIGATION
THAN USG. MISSION THEREFORE REQUESTED TO ATTEMPT TO

DEVELOP ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WHICH WOULD ASSIST US IN FURTHER STUDY AND ANALYSIS OF RECIPROCITY ISSUE.

(A) HOW MANY HARMONIZED STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY ALL MEMBER STATES TO DATE? WHAT ARE THE REALISTIC PROSPECTS THAT THE COMMISSION'S HARMONIZATION PROGRAM WILL SUCCEED WITHIN THE PROJECTED TIME FRAME (1978)?

(B) WHAT AUTHORITY, IF ANY, DOES THE COMMISSION HAVE OVER

MEMBER STATE NATIONAL MANDATORY STANDARDS NOT RELATED TO OR AFFECTED BY COMMUNITY-WIDE STANDARDS?

(C) WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL NATIONAL STANDARDS BODIES IN EC COUNTRIES (E.G., FRANCE'S AFNOR, GERMANY'S DINA, ETC.) ARE LEGALLY PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS ALTHOUGH ALL ARE SUBSIDIZED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS AND SOME ARE GIVEN QTE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION. UNQTE MOREOVER, VAST MAJORITY OF STANDARDS WRITTEN BY THOSE BODIES ARE VOLUNTARY. WHAT AUTHORITY, OTHER THAN QTE BEST EFFORTS UNQTE DOES EC HAVE OVER THESE BODIES?

(D) WHAT AUTHORITY, IF ANY, DOES EC HAVE OVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS WRITING ACTIVITY IN MEMBER COUNTRIES?

(E) WHAT AUTHORITY WOULD EC HAVE OVER ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL CERTIFICATION SCHEMES SUCH AS CEN AND CENELEC?

2. WITH EXCEPTION OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVES ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED BY MEMBER STATES, WE SUSPECT EC WOULD HAVE NO MORE AUTHORITY OVER ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES UNDER PROVISIONS OF TREATY OF ROME THAN USG HAS WITH REGARD TO STATES.

3. EUROPEAN REPORT NO. 239 DATED JUNE 14 ENTITLED QTE TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE UNQTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CONTAINS USEFUL BACKGROUND DATA ON COMMISSION'S EFFORTS TO HARMONIZE STANDARDS AND EC POSITION ON CODE.

4. APPRECIATE MISSION'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ASAP ALONG WITH ANY OTHER COMMENTS MISSION MIGHT WISH TO MAKE REGARDING RECIPROCITY ISSUE. SISCO

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